

E. Chase
3-10-06

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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2000

In re application of

Hisashi YAMAGISHI, et al.

Application No. 08/898,853

Group Art Unit: 3711

Filed: July 25, 1997

Examiner: G. Marlo

For: MULTI-PIECE SOLID GOLF BALL

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF PROPOSED DRAWING CORRECTIONS

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Submitted herewith please find one sheet of proposed drawing corrections with the changes indicated in red ink. The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge receipt of the drawing corrections and approved the changes.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: February 29, 2000

INTERFERENCE
3711

PATENT APPLICATION
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

E. Chase
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In re Application of:

HISASHI YAMAGISHI et al

Appln. No.: **08/898,853**

Filed: **July 25, 1997**

For: **MULTI-PIECE SOLID GOLF BALL**



Group Art Unit: **3711**

Examiner: **Marlo, G.**

19/Reg. Intery.

REQUEST FOR INTERFERENCE PURSUANT TO
37 C.F.R. § 1.607 WITH U.S. PATENT 5,743,816

Assistant Commissioner
of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

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Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.607, Applicants (hereinafter "Yamagishi et al.") hereby request that an Interference be declared between the above-identified application (hereinafter the "Yamagishi Application") and U.S. Patent 5,743,816, issued to Ohsumi et al, on April 28, 1998, from U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 835,023, filed March 27, 1997 (hereinafter the "Ohsumi Patent").^{1/}

The requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.607 are met as set forth below.

I. Proposed Count for the Interference

Yamagishi et al. propose the following Count be established in the Interference:

Proposed Count

A golf ball according to any of Claims 1-7 of the Ohsumi Patent

or

^{1/} A copy of the Ohsumi Patent was provided to the Examiner along with the "Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116", filed April 27, 1999.

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A golf ball according to any one of Claims 1-19 of the Yamagishi Application.

Claims 1-7 of the Ohsumi Patent and Claims 1-19 of the Yamagishi Application are identical to first and second alternatives, respectively, of the proposed Count.

II. Designation of the Parties' Claims in the Interference

A. The Yamagishi Application

In any Interference declared between the Yamagishi Application and the Ohsumi Patent, Claims 1-19 of the Yamagishi Application, directed to a multi-piece solid golf ball, should be designated as corresponding to the proposed Count.

Claim 1 of the Yamagishi Application is directed to a multi-piece solid golf ball having a structure of at least four layers, as shown in Figure 2. The golf ball includes a core having a structure including at least two layers, referred to in the disclosure as an inner sphere 12 and layer 13 that surrounds the inner sphere 12, and a cover for enclosing the core. The cover has an inner cover layer 15 and outer cover layer 16. The outer cover layer 16 has a hardness in the range of 40 to 60 Shore D, and the inner cover layer has a hardness of up to 53 Shore D and is lower than the hardness of the outer layer 16.

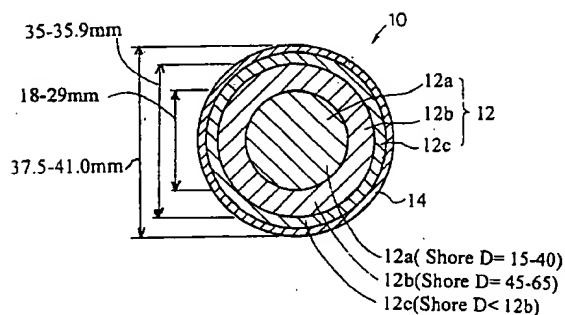
Similarly, the Ohsumi Patent discloses and claims a four-piece ("multi-piece"), solid golf ball having a core including an inner layer 12a, intermediate layer 12b, outer layer 12c, and a cover 14 for covering the core, as seen in the lone figure of the Ohsumi Patent. As disclosed in the Ohsumi patent, the Shore D hardness of the layers 12a and 12b fall within the range of 15-40 and 45-65, respectively, while the Shore D hardness of the layer 12c is less than the layer 12b and is less than the cover 14, which has a hardness of 68 Shore D.

The layers of the golf ball disclosed and claimed in the Ohsumi Patent corresponds to the layers of the golf ball disclosed and claimed in the Yamagishi Application as follows:

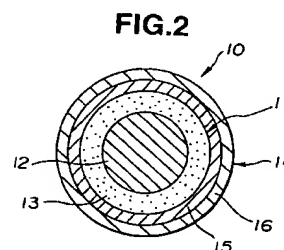
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Ohsumi Patent	Yamagishi Application
Inner layer 12a	Inner sphere 12
Intermediate layer 12b	Layer 13
Outer layer 12c	Inner cover layer 15
Cover 14	Outer cover layer 16

For ease of reference, the relevant figures from the Ohsumi Patent (left) and the Yamagishi Application (right) are reproduced below.



Ohsumi Patent



Yamagishi Application

The Ohsumi Patent characterizes the layers 12a, 12b, 12c as part of the core, and refers to the core as composed of a three-layered structure. Ohsumi Patent, col. 2:30-33; 2:37-38; 2:48-50. On the other hand, the Yamagishi Application refers to the core as including two layers 12, 13 and the cover as including two layers 15, 16. Applicants submit that there is no substantial difference in the layer 12c of the Ohsumi Patent, which is characterized as part of the core, and the inner cover layer 15 of the Yamagishi Application, which is characterized as part of the

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cover. Both layers are the third layer counting from inside out and, conversely, both layers are the second layers counting from outside in.

Moreover, both layers may be composed of similar materials such as an ionomer resin,² as opposed to a rubber base material which is the typical composition of a core layer. Both layers have similar compositions. For example, the Ohsumi Patent states that the layers making up the core may be formed of a rubber composition composed of a base material of natural and/or synthetic rubber, or may be formed using a material comprising an ionomer resin and/or a thermoplastic elastomer such as those composed of styrene, olefin, urethane, ester, and amide. '816 patent, col. 2:48-55. Table 1 lists five examples where the layers of the core vary. In Example 5, the outer layer 12c is composed of a thermoplastic polyamide elastomer and Himilan 1605 (i.e., an ionomer resin). In the Yamagishi Application, the inner cover layer 15 is also composed of an ionomer resin. Page 6, lines 26-29.

Claims 2-4 of Yamagishi Application depend from claim 1. They further limit one or more of the four layers of the golf ball defined in claim 1. They are thus drawn to the "same patentable invention" within the meaning of 37 C.F.R. §1.601(n). Moreover, claims 1-4 are a part of the application as originally filed and therefore find support in the Yamagishi Application.

Claims 5-12 were added to the Yamagishi Application by Preliminary Amendment filed July 25, 1997. Claims 5 and 9 are independent claims similar to claim 1, but further defining salient characteristics of the golf ball. Claim 5, for example, further defines the composition of the inner sphere and layer surrounding the inner sphere, the diameter of the core, and the hardness of the surrounding layer. Claim 9 further defines the composition of the inner sphere and the layer surrounding the inner sphere, and the hardness of the inner sphere relative to the

² Compare Ohsumi Patent, col. 2:48-55 and Table 1, Example 5 with Yamagishi Application, page 6, lines 26-29.

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surrounding layer. Claims 5 and 9 are thus believed to be drawn to the “same patentable invention” within the meaning of 37 C.F.R. §1.601(n).

Claims 6-8 of the Yamagishi Application depend from claim 5, while claims 10-12 depend from claim 9. Claims 6 and 10 further define the hardness of the inner cover layer relative to the outer cover layer. Claims 7 and 11 define the gage of the inner and outer cover layer and the entire cover. Claims 8 and 12 further limit the diameter and composition of the inner sphere; claim 12 further limits the hardness of the surrounding layer and the diameter of the core.

Claims 5-12, which were added by Preliminary Amendment, are supported by the Yamagishi Application. The claim chart attached hereto in Appendix A provides that correlation.

Claims 13-19 of the Yamagishi Application were copied substantially verbatim from the Ohsumi Patent, claims 1-7. In particular, claims 13 and 16-19 were copied identically, while claims 14 and 15 vary slightly. The range of hardness (claim 14) and diameter (claim 15) of the “inner layer” is different to conform the copied claims to the disclosure of the Yamagishi Application. These differences are insubstantial. The hardness described in the Yamigishi Application ranges from 20 to 40, while in Ohsumi Patent the hardness ranges from 15 to 40. The diameter of the inner layer is defined in the Yamigishi Application as ranging from 20 mm to 39 mm, while in Ohsumi Patent the diameter ranges from 18 to 29 mm.

B. The Ohsumi Patent

In any Interference declared between the Yamagishi Application and the Ohsumi Patent, Claims 1-7 of the Ohsumi Patent should be designated as corresponding to the proposed Count, for the same reasons set forth above regarding claims 13-19 of the Yamagishi Application.

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III. The Requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 135(b) Have Been Met

The requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 135(b) have been met as Claims 1-4 of the Yamagishi Application were originally presented when the Yamagishi Application was filed July 25, 1997, Claims 5-12 of the Yamagishi Application were presented in the Preliminary Amendment filed July 25, 1997 (and subsequently amended in the Amendment filed October 28, 1998), and Claims 13-19 of the Yamagishi Application were presented in the Amendment filed April 27, 1999. That is, Claims 1-19 were added to the Yamagishi Application less than one year after the issuance of the Ohsumi Patent on April 28, 1998.

IV. The Dates to be Accorded to the Parties in the Interference

A. The Yamagishi Application

The Yamagishi Application is a Rule 60 Continuation of Yamagishi Parent Application Serial No. 08/661,775, filed June 13, 1996 (now U.S. Patent 5,688,595).

Yamagishi et al. claim benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120 to Yamagishi Parent Application Serial No. 08/661,778, filed June 13, 1996.

As discussed in detail in the Preliminary Amendment filed July 25, 1997, the Amendment filed July 25, 1997, and the Amendment filed October 28, 1998, Claims 1-19 are supported in the Yamagishi Application. Claims 1-4 were a part of the Yamagishi Application as originally filed; while claims 5-19 were added subsequent thereto. Support for Claims 5-19 of the Yamagishi Application can be found in Appendix A, attached hereto.

Furthermore, the Yamagishi Application is a Rule 60 Continuation of Yamagishi Parent Application Serial No. 8/661,778, filed June 13, 1996. Thus, identical support for Claims 1-19 can be found in the Yamagishi Parent Application.

Accordingly, in any Interference declared between the Yamagishi Application and the Ohsumi Patent, Claims 1-19 of the Yamagishi Application should be accorded benefit under 35

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U.S.C. § 120 to the June 13, 1996, filing date of Yamagishi Parent Application Serial No. 08/661,778.

Furthermore, Yamagishi et al. claim benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 to JPA 7-171520, filed June 14, 1995. Support in sworn English translation of JPA 7-171520 for claims 1-19 of the Yamagishi Application can be found in the claim chart in Appendix B, attached hereto.

A certified copy of JPA 7-171520 was filed on June 13, 1996, in the Yamagishi Parent Application. Acknowledgement of receipt of said certified copy of the JPA 7-171520 can be found on page 1 of the Office Action dated May 29, 1998 in the Yamagishi Application. Moreover, submitted herewith is a sworn translation into English of JPA 7-171520.

Hence, Claims 1-19 of the Yamagishi Application are fully supported, in accordance with 35 U.S.C. § 112, in JPA 7-171520, filed June 14, 1995.

Accordingly, in any Interference declared between the Yamagishi Application and the Ohsumi Patent, Claims 1-19 of the Yamagishi Application should be accorded benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 119 to the June 14, 1995, filing date of JPA 7-171520.

B. The Ohsumi Patent

As discussed above, the filing date of the application which matured into the Ohsumi Patent is March 27, 1997. The Ohsumi Patent does not claim benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120 to any earlier filed U.S. application.

The Ohsumi Patent claims benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 to JPA 8-079203, filed April 1, 1996. However, in accordance with MPEP § 2308.1, any claim of foreign priority by the patentee (Ohsumi et al) under 35 U.S.C. § 119 will not be taken into account when determining whether or not an interference should be declared.

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Furthermore, a sworn translation into English of JPA 8-079203 copy is not of record in the file history of the Ohsumi Patent. Thus, at least at this point in time, Ohsumi et al is not entitled to benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119.

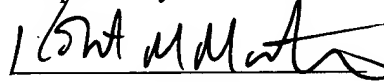
V. Designation of the Status of the Parties in the Interference

It should be that Yamagishi et al's Japanese priority document was filed prior to the March 27, 1997, filing date of the application which matured into the Ohsumi Patent. In particular, Yamagishi et al's Japanese priority document was filed June 14, 1995. This date is prior to the March 27, 1997, filing date of the application which matured into the Ohsumi Patent, as well as prior to the April 1, 1996, filing date of Ohsumi et al's Japanese priority document.

Accordingly, in any Interference declared between the Yamagishi Application and the Ohsumi Patent, Yamagishi et al should be designated the Senior Party and Ohsumi et al should be designated the Junior Party.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at his Washington telephone number on any questions which might arise.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: February 29, 2000

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Appendix A

Yamagishi Claims 5-19	Applying The Terms of the Claims to The Disclosure of the Yamagishi Application
5. A multi-piece solid golf ball having a structure of at least four layers, said ball comprising;	Title "Multi-piece Solid Golf Ball"; page 1:10-13; page 2:23-24; page 5:7-23; and Figure 2
a core having a structure consisting of an inner sphere formed of a rubber material based on polybutadiene and a layer surrounding the inner sphere and formed mainly of a thermoplastic resin or rubber base material, and	Page 6:30 to 7:28.
a cover enclosing the core and consisting of inner and outer cover layers, said outer cover layer having a hardness of 40 to 60 degrees on Shore D, and said inner cover layer having a hardness of up to 53 degrees on Shore D and lower than that of said outer cover layer,	Page 5:24 to 6:29
said core having a diameter of 35 to 41 mm, and said surrounding layer having a hardness of at least 45 degrees on Shore D.	Page 7:21-22.
6. The golf ball of claim 5 wherein said inner cover layer is softer than said outer cover layer by a hardness difference of at least 5 degrees on Shore D.	Page 6:6-10.

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Yamagishi Claims 5-19	Applying The Terms of the Claims to The Disclosure of the Yamagishi Application
7. The golf ball of claim 5 wherein said outer cover layer has a gage of 0.5 to 3.0 mm, said inner cover layer has a gage of 0.5 to 3.0 mm, and the entire cover has a gage of 1.0 to 5.0 mm.	Page 6:11-15.
8. The golf ball of claim 5 wherein said inner sphere has a diameter of 20 to 39 mm and is formed of a rubber base material.	Page 6:37 to 7:7.
9. A multi-piece solid golf ball having a structure of at least four layers, said ball comprising;	Title "Multi-piece Solid Golf Ball"; page 1:10-13; page 2:23-24; page 5:7-23; and Figure 2
a core having a structure consisting of an inner sphere formed of a rubber material based on polybutadiene and a layer surrounding the inner sphere and formed mainly of a thermoplastic resin or rubber base material, and	Page 7:3-7 and 26-28.
a cover enclosing the core and consisting of inner and outer cover layers, said outer cover layer having a hardness of 40 to 60 degrees on Shore D, and said inner cover layer having a hardness of up to 53 degrees on Shore D and lower than that of said outer cover layer, and	Page 5:24-33.
said inner sphere having a lower hardness than said surrounding layer.	Page 7:14-16.

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Yamagishi Claims 5-19	Applying The Terms of the Claims to The Disclosure of the Yamagishi Application
10. The golf ball of claim 9 wherein said inner cover layer is softer than said outer cover layer by a hardness difference of at least 5 degrees on Shore D.	Page 6:6-10.
11. The golf ball of claim 9 wherein said outer cover layer has a gage of 0.5 to 3.0 mm, said inner cover layer has a gage of 0.5 to 3.0 mm, and the entire cover has a gage of 1.0 to 5.0 mm.	Page 6:11-15.
12. The golf ball of claim 9 wherein said inner sphere has a diameter of 20 to 39 mm and is formed of a rubber base material, said surrounding layer has a hardness of at least 45 degrees on Shore D, and said core has a diameter of 35 to 41 mm.	Page 6:37 to 7:25.
13. A solid golf ball comprising	Title "Multi-piece Solid Golf Ball"; page 1:10-13; page 2:23-24; page 5:7-23; and Figure 2

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Yamagishi Claims 5-19	Applying The Terms of the Claims to The Disclosure of the Yamagishi Application
<p>a solid core having a three-layered structure composed of an inner layer, an intermediate layer formed outside said inner layer, and an outer layer formed outside said intermediate layer, and a cover for coating said solid core, wherein:</p>	<p>“...a multi-piece solid golf bass is defined according to the present invention as comprising a core having a structure consisting of at least two layers...” page 5:7-9</p> <p>“The ball generally designated at 10 includes a solid core 11 consisting of an inner sphere 12 and a layer 13 surrounding the inner sphere and a cover 14 around the core consisting the inner and outer cover layers 15 and 16. The surrounding layer 13 may be a single layer or have a plurality of layers. In the former case, the golf ball is of the four layer structure. See, page 5:15-23, Figure 2.</p> <p>The recited “inner layer” corresponds to the inner sphere 12; the recited “intermediate layer” corresponds to the layer 13; the recited “outer layer” corresponds to the inner cover layer 15; the recited “cover corresponds to the outer layer 16. Compare Figure 2 of the present application to Figure 1 of the ‘816 patent.</p>

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Yamagishi Claims 5-19	Applying The Terms of the Claims to The Disclosure of the Yamagishi Application
<p>said inner layer is designed to have a Shore D hardness which is lower than that of said intermediate layer;</p>	<p>The inner sphere 12 corresponds to the "inner layer". The inner sphere 12 has a Shore D hardness of 20 to 55 degrees, especially 25 to 50. Page 6:30-33.</p> <p>The inner sphere 12 has a Shore D hardness lower than the Shore D hardness of the layer 13. See, Examples 1-7 in Table 1.</p>
<p>said intermediate layer is designed to have a Shore D hardness of 45 to 65; and</p>	<p>The layer 13 corresponds to the "intermediate layer". The layer 13 has a Shore D hardness of at least 45 degrees, especially at least 55 degrees (Shore D). Page 7:8-12.</p> <p>The layer 13 has a Shore D hardness of 65 in Examples 6 and 7. See Table 1.</p>
<p>said outer layer is designed to have a Shore D hardness which is lower than that of said intermediate layer.</p>	<p>The inner cover layer 15 corresponds to the "outer layer". The inner cover layer 15 has a Shore D hardness of up to 53 degrees, preferably up to 50 degrees (Shore D).</p> <p>The inner cover layer 15 has a Shore D hardness lower than the Shore D hardness of the layer 13. See, Examples 1-7 in Table 1, p. 7:14-16.</p>

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Yamagishi Claims 5-19	Applying The Terms of the Claims to The Disclosure of the Yamagishi Application
<p>14. The solid golf ball according to claim 1, wherein said inner layer has a Shore D hardness of 15 to 40.</p>	<p>The inner sphere 12 corresponds to the "inner layer" and has a Shore D hardness in the range of 20 to 55. Page 6:30-32.</p>
<p>15. The solid golf ball according to claim 1, wherein said inner layer has a diameter of 18.0 to 29.0 mm, said intermediate layer and said inner layer have a combined diameter of 35.0 to 39.5 mm, and said outer layer, said inner layer, and said intermediate layer have a combined diameter of 37.5 to 41.0 mm.</p>	<p>The inner sphere 12 has a diameter of 20 to 39 mm. Page 6:37 - Page 7:3; Table 1, Example 7.</p> <p>The combined diameter of inner sphere 13 and layer 13 is in the range of 35 to 41 mm., especially 36 to 40 mm. Page 7:20-22. See, Examples 1-7 in Table 1.</p> <p>The inner sphere 12, layer 13 and inner cover layer 15 have a combined diameter in the range of 37.5 to 41.0 mm. See, Examples 1-7 in Table 1; page 6:11-25; page 6:35 to page 7:2; page 7:20-24; and page 9:7-10.</p>
<p>16. The solid golf ball according to claim 1, wherein a weight distribution in said solid core is designed so that said inner layer has a large specific gravity, and said intermediate layer and said outer layer have specific gravities which are smaller than said specific gravity of said inner layer.</p>	<p>The limitations of claim 16 are inherent in layers having a dimension and composition as described in the application. See, <i>e.g.</i>, Ex. 4 in Table 1 on p. 11.</p>

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Yamagishi Claims 5-19	Applying The Terms of the Claims to The Disclosure of the Yamagishi Application
<p>17. The solid golf ball according to claim 1, wherein said solid core is formed by using a rubber composition comprising a base material composed of natural and/or synthetic rubber.</p>	<p>The inner sphere 12 and layer 13 (core) are composed of rubber material based on polybutadiene. Page 7:3-7 and 26-28.</p>
<p>18. The solid golf ball according to claim 1, wherein at least one layer of said solid core is formed by using a material comprising one selected from ionomer resins and thermoplastic elastomers composed of styrene, olefin, urethane, ester, or amide.</p>	<p>The layer 13 may be made of an ionomer resin. Page 7:26-28. Also, the inner cover layer 15 may be made of a thermoplastic resin such as an ionomer resin. Page 6:26-29.</p>
<p>19. The solid golf ball according to claim 1, wherein said cover is formed by using an ionomer resin or a material containing it.</p>	<p>The outer cover layer 16 corresponds to the recited "cover". The outer cover layer 16 is formed of ionomer resin. Page 6:26-29.</p>

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APPENDIX B

Yamagishi Claims	Support In Japanese Priority Document
1. A multi-piece solid golf ball having a structure of at least four layers, said golf ball comprising	Page 5:31-28; page 6:-9; and Figure 2
a core having a structure consisting of at least two layers and	Page 5:5-8 and 33-35; and Figure 2
a cover enclosing the core and consisting of inner and outer cover layers, said outer cover layer having a hardness of 40 to 60 degrees on Shore D, and said inner cover layer having a hardness of up to 53 degrees on Shore D and lower than that of said outer cover layer.	page 5:34-38; and Figure 2
2. The golf ball of claim 1 wherein said inner cover layer is softer than said outer cover layer by a hardness difference of at least 5 degrees on Shore D.	Page 6:28-35

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Yamagishi Claims	Support In Japanese Priority Document
<p>3. The golf ball of claim 1 wherein said outer cover layer has a gage of 0.5 to 3.0 mm, said inner cover layer has a gage of 0.5 to 3.0 mm, and the entire cover has a gage of 1.0 to 5.0 mm.</p>	<p>Page 6:37 - page 7:3</p>
<p>4. The golf ball of claim 1 wherein said core consists of an inner sphere and a layer surrounding the inner sphere, said inner sphere has a diameter of 20 to 39 mm and is formed of a rubber base material to a hardness of 20 to 55 degrees on Shore D, said surrounding layer has a hardness of at least 45 degrees on Shore D, and said core has a diameter of 35 to 41 mm.</p>	<p>Page 7:20-29</p>
<p>5. (Amended) A multi-piece solid golf ball having a structure of at least four layers, said ball comprising;</p>	<p>Pages 5:31-38; pages 6-7; and Figure 2</p>
<p>a core having a structure consisting of an inner sphere formed of a rubber material based on polybutadiene and a layer surrounding the inner sphere and formed mainly of a thermoplastic resin or rubber base material, and</p>	<p>Pages 7:20-page 8:22; and Figure 2</p>
<p>a cover enclosing the core and consisting of inner and outer cover layers, said outer cover layer having a hardness of 40 to 60 degrees on Shore D, and said inner cover layer having a hardness of up to 53 degrees on Shore D and lower than that of said outer cover layer,</p>	<p>Page 6:5-6, 11-35; and Figure 2</p>

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Yamagishi Claims	Support In Japanese Priority Document
said core having a diameter of 35 to 41 mm, and	Page 8:14-15
said surrounding layer having a hardness of at least 45 degrees on Shore D.	Page 7:37-page 8:3
6. The golf ball of claim 5 wherein said inner cover layer is softer than said outer cover layer by a hardness difference of at least 5 degrees on Shore D.	Page 6:31-35
7. The golf ball of claim 5 wherein said outer cover layer has a gage of 0.5 to 3.0 mm, said inner cover layer has a gage of 0.5 to 3.0 mm, and the entire cover has a gage of 1.0 to 5.0 mm.	Page 6:37-page 7:5
8. The golf ball of claim 5 wherein said inner sphere has a diameter of 20 to 39 mm and is formed of a rubber base material.	Page 7:27-29 and 31-35
9. (Amended) A multi-piece solid golf ball having a structure of at least four layers, said ball comprising;	Page 5:31-28; and Figure 2

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Yamagishi Claims	Support In Japanese Priority Document
a core having a structure consisting of an inner sphere formed of a rubber material based on polybutadiene and a layer surrounding the inner sphere and formed mainly of a thermoplastic resin or rubber base material, and	Page 7:31-35; Page 8:20-22; and Figure 2
a cover enclosing the core and consisting of inner and outer cover layers, said outer cover layer having a hardness of 40 to 60 degrees on Shore D, and said inner cover layer having a hardness of up to 53 degrees on Shore D and lower than that of said outer cover layer, and	Page 6:5-6 and 11-26; and Figure 2
said inner sphere having a lower hardness than said surrounding layer.	Page 8:6-10
10. The golf ball of claim 9 wherein said inner cover layer is softer than said outer cover layer by a hardness difference of at least 5 degrees on Shore D.	Page 6:28-35
11. The golf ball of claim 9 wherein said outer cover layer has a gage of 0.5 to 3.0 mm, said inner cover layer has a gage of 0.5 to 3.0 mm, and the entire cover has a gage of 1.0 to 5.0 mm.	Page 6:37 - page 7:4
12. The golf ball of claim 9 wherein said inner sphere has a diameter of 20 to 39 mm and is formed of a rubber base material,	Page 7:27-35

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PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.607
WITH U.S. PATENT 5,743,816
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said surrounding layer has a hardness of at least 45 degrees on Shore D, and said core has a diameter of 35 to 41 mm.	Page 7:37 - page 8:1; and page 8:13-15
13. A solid golf ball comprising a solid core having a three-layered structure composed of an inner layer, an intermediate layer formed outside said inner layer, and an outer layer formed outside said intermediate layer, and a cover for coating said solid core, wherein:	Page 5:31-28; page 6:2-9; and Figure 2
said inner layer is designed to have a Shore D hardness which is lower than that of said intermediate layer;	Page 8:6-10
said intermediate layer is designed to have a Shore D hardness of 45 to 65; and	Page 7:37 - page 8:2
said outer layer is designed to have a Shore D hardness which is lower than that of said intermediate layer	Page 8:6-8
14. The solid golf ball according to claim 13, wherein said inner layer has a Shore D hardness of 15 to 40.	Page 7:20-22
15. The solid golf ball according to claim 13, wherein said inner layer has a diameter of 18.0 to 29.0 mm,	Page 7:27-29

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said intermediate layer and said inner layer have a combined diameter of 35.0 to 39.5 mm, and	Page 8:14-16; Table 1, Examples 1 and 7
said outer layer, said inner layer, and said intermediate layer have a combined diameter of 37.5 to 41.0 mm.	Page 12, Table 1, Examples 1 and 7
16. The solid golf ball according to claim 13, wherein a weight distribution in said solid core is designed so that said inner layer has a large specific gravity, and said intermediate layer and said outer layer have specific gravities which are smaller than said specific gravity of said inner layer.	The limitations are inherent in layers having dimensions and composition as described in the application. See, <i>e.g.</i> , Ex. 4 in Table 1 on p. 12.
17. The solid golf ball according to claim 13, wherein said solid core is formed by using a rubber composition comprising a base material composed of natural and/or synthetic rubber.	Page 7:31-35
18. The solid golf ball according to claim 13, wherein at least one layer of said solid core is formed by using a material comprising one selected from ionomer resins and thermoplastic elastomers composed of styrene, olefin, urethane, ester, or amide.	Page 8:20-22

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19. The solid golf ball according to claim 13, wherein said cover is formed by using an ionomer resin or a material containing it.	Page 7:15-18